

LISTING OF THE CLAIMS:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Claims 1-6 (**Canceled**).

7. (**Currently Amended**) ~~A futures trading system~~ **An apparatus**, comprising:
~~a futures module operable to receive~~ **a processor that:**

receives a request to perform a selected one of a buying and a selling operation associated with a futures contract, the futures contract operable to be purchased or sold in a financial market environment, ~~wherein the~~ **the** futures contract ~~includes:~~ **based at least in part on:**

a first asset class having a first value associated therewith; and

a second asset class having a second value associated therewith,

wherein a price for the futures contract is determined at least partially by the first and second ~~values.~~ **values; and**

provides a confirmation notice associated with a sale or a purchase of the futures contract.

8. (**Currently Amended**) ~~The futures trading system~~ **apparatus** of Claim 7, ~~wherein the futures module comprises a processor that is operable to receive the request and to process the request in order to match~~ **the processor matches** one or more contract terms provided in the request with an availability associated with the futures contract.

9. (**Currently Amended**) ~~The futures trading system~~ **apparatus** of Claim 7, **further comprising** ~~wherein the futures module further comprises~~ a memory element ~~operable to store~~ **that stores** a transaction associated with a purchase or a sale of the futures contract.

10. (**Currently Amended**) ~~The futures trading system~~ **apparatus** of Claim 7, **the first asset class representing bonds and the second asset class representing at least one of:**

securities;

commodities; and

currencies.

~~wherein the futures module is operable to confirm a sale or a purchase of the futures contract and to provide a confirmation notification to a selected one of the buyer and the seller of the futures contract.~~

11. **(Currently Amended)** The ~~futures trading system~~ apparatus of Claim 7, wherein the futures contract ~~further comprises~~ is based at least in part on a third asset class having a third value associated therewith, wherein the first, second, and third values are used at least partially to determine the price.

12. **(Currently Amended)** The ~~futures trading system~~ apparatus of Claim 7, wherein the ~~futures module is operable to communicate~~ processor communicates with a price reporting/dissemination element that is operable to provide financial data to a selected one of the buyer and the seller.

13. **(Currently Amended)** The ~~futures trading system~~ apparatus of Claim 7, wherein a change in the first value due to a cheapest to deliver parameter results in a change in the second value.

14. **(Currently Amended)** The ~~futures trading system~~ apparatus of Claim 7, wherein the futures contract includes a pricing methodology that is based on basis points per annum, the pricing methodology being used at least partially to determine the price for the futures contract.

15. **(Withdrawn)** A method for transacting an asset in a financial environment, comprising:

receiving a request to perform a selected one of a purchasing and a selling operation for a futures contract, wherein the futures contract includes a first asset class having a first value associated therewith and a second asset class having a second value associated therewith, and wherein a price for the futures contract is determined at least partially by the first and second values.

16. **(Withdrawn)** The method of Claim 15, wherein a change in the first value due to a cheapest to deliver parameter results in a change in the second value.
17. **(Withdrawn)** The method of Claim 15, further comprising:
providing a third asset class in the futures contract, the third asset class having a third value associated therewith, wherein the first, second, and third values are used at least partially to determine the price.
18. **(Withdrawn)** The method of Claim 15, further comprising:
allocating that the first, second, and third asset classes each make up a third of the futures contract.
19. **(Withdrawn)** The method of Claim 15, further comprising:
delivering the futures contract to a purchaser thereof.
20. **(Withdrawn)** The method of Claim 15, further comprising:
implementing a pricing methodology that is based on basis points per annum, the pricing methodology being used at least partially to determine the price for the futures contract.
21. **(Withdrawn)** A futures contract prepared by a process comprising the steps of:
receiving a request to perform a selected one of a purchasing and a selling operation for the futures contract, wherein the futures contract includes a first asset class having a first value associated therewith and a second asset class having a second value associated therewith, and wherein a price for the futures contract is determined at least partially by the first and second values.
22. **(Withdrawn)** The process of Claim 21, wherein a change in the first value due to a cheapest to deliver parameter results in a change in the second value.
23. **(Withdrawn)** The process of Claim 21, further comprising:

providing a third asset class in the futures contract, the third asset class having a third value associated therewith, wherein the first, second, and third values are used at least partially to determine the price.

24. **(Withdrawn)** The process of Claim 21, further comprising:
assigning ownership of the futures contract to a purchaser thereof.

25. **(Withdrawn)** A system for offering an asset in a financial environment, comprising:
means for receiving a request to perform a selected one of a purchasing and a selling operation for a futures contract, wherein the futures contract includes a first asset class having a first value associated therewith and a second asset class having a second value associated therewith, and wherein a price for the futures contract is determined at least partially by the first and second values; and
means for assigning possession of the futures contract to an entity associated with performing the selected one of the purchasing and selling operations.

26. **(Withdrawn)** The system of Claim 25, wherein a change in the first value due to a cheapest to deliver parameter results in a change in the second value.

27. **(Withdrawn)** The system of Claim 25, further comprising:
means for providing a third asset class in the futures contract, the third asset class having a third value associated therewith, wherein the first, second, and third values are used at least partially to determine the price.

28. **(Withdrawn)** The system of Claim 25, further comprising:
means for determining the price using the first and second values.

29. **(Withdrawn)** The system contract of Claim 25, further comprising:
means for implementing a pricing methodology that is based on basis points per annum, the pricing methodology being used at least partially to determine the price for the futures contract.

Claims 30-35 (Canceled).

36. **(Currently Amended)** ~~A futures trading system~~ **An apparatus**, comprising:
~~a futures module operable to~~ **a processor that:**

~~receive~~ **receives** a request to perform a selected one of a buying and a selling operation associated with a futures contract, the futures contract operable to be purchased or sold in a financial market environment, ~~wherein~~ the futures contract ~~includes:~~ **based at least in part on** an asset class ~~that includes~~ **comprising:**

a first asset subclass having a first value associated ~~therewith~~
therewith; and

a second asset subclass having a second value associated therewith,
wherein a price for the futures contract is determined at least partially by the first and second ~~values;~~ **values;**

and

provides a confirmation notice associated with a sale or a purchase of the futures contract.

37. **(Currently Amended)** The ~~futures trading system~~ **apparatus** of Claim 36, wherein ~~the futures module comprises a processor that is operable to receive the request and to process the request in order to match~~ **the processor matches** one or more contract terms provided in the request with an availability associated with the futures contract.

38. **(Currently Amended)** The ~~futures trading system~~ **apparatus** of Claim 36, **further comprising** ~~wherein the futures module further comprises~~ a memory element operable to store **that stores** a transaction associated with a purchase or a sale of the futures contract.

39. **(Currently Amended)** The ~~futures trading system~~ **apparatus** of Claim 36, **the asset class representing bonds, the first asset subclass representing a first type of bond, and the second asset class representing a second type of bond.** ~~wherein the futures module is operable to confirm a sale or a purchase of the futures contract and to provide a confirmation notification to a selected one of the buyer and the seller of the futures contract.~~

40. **(Currently Amended)** The ~~futures trading system~~ apparatus of Claim 36, wherein the futures contract ~~further comprises~~ is based at least in part on a third asset subclass having a third value associated therewith, wherein the first, second, and third values are used at least partially to determine the price.

41. **(Currently Amended)** The ~~futures trading system~~ apparatus of Claim 36, wherein ~~the futures module is operable to communicate~~ the processor communicates with a price reporting/dissemination element that is operable to provide financial data to a selected one of the buyer and the seller.

42. **(Currently Amended)** The ~~futures trading system~~ apparatus of Claim 36, wherein a change in the first value due to a cheapest to deliver parameter results in a change in the second value.

43. **(Currently Amended)** The ~~futures trading system~~ apparatus of Claim 36, wherein the futures contract includes a pricing methodology that is based on basis points per annum, the pricing methodology being used at least partially to determine the price for the futures contract.

44. **(Withdrawn)** A method for transacting an asset in a financial environment, comprising:

receiving a request to perform a selected one of a purchasing and a selling operation for a futures contract, wherein the futures contract includes an asset class that includes a first asset subclass having a first value associated therewith and a second asset subclass having a second value associated therewith, and wherein a price for the futures contract is determined at least partially by the first and second values.

45. **(Withdrawn)** The method of Claim 44, wherein a change in the first value due to a cheapest to deliver parameter results in a change in the second value.

46. **(Withdrawn)** The method of Claim 44, further comprising:
providing a third asset subclass in the futures contract, the third asset class having a third value associated therewith, wherein the first, second, and third values are used at least partially to determine the price.

47. **(Withdrawn)** The method of Claim 44, further comprising:
allocating that the first, second, and third asset subclasses each make up a third of the
futures contract.

48. **(Withdrawn)** The method of Claim 44, further comprising:
assigning ownership of the futures contract to a purchaser thereof.

49. **(Withdrawn)** The method of Claim 44, further comprising:
implementing a pricing methodology that is based on basis points per annum, the
pricing methodology being used at least partially to determine the price for the futures
contract.

50. **(Withdrawn)** A system for offering an asset in a financial environment,
comprising:
means for receiving a request to perform a selected one of a purchasing and a selling
operation for a futures contract, wherein the futures contract includes an asset class that
includes a first asset subclass having a first value associated therewith and a second asset
subclass having a second value associated therewith, and wherein a price for the futures
contract is determined at least partially by the first and second values; and
means for assigning possession of the futures contract to an entity associated with
performing the selected one of the purchasing and selling operations.

51. **(Withdrawn)** The system of Claim 50, wherein a change in the first value
due to a cheapest to deliver parameter results in a change in the second value.

52. **(Withdrawn)** The system of Claim 50, further comprising:
means for providing a third asset class in the futures contract, the third asset class
having a third value associated therewith, wherein the first, second, and third values are used
at least partially to determine the price.

53. **(Withdrawn)** The system of Claim 50, further comprising:

means for implementing a pricing methodology that is based on basis points per annum, the pricing methodology being used at least partially to determine the price for the futures contract.

54. (New) The apparatus of Claim 7, wherein the processor determines a settlement price of the futures contract based at least in part on a volume-weighted average price of a plurality of trades associated with the futures contract.

55. (New) The apparatus of Claim 36, wherein the processor determines a settlement price of the futures contract based at least in part on a volume-weighted average price of a plurality of trades associated with the futures contract.

56. (New) The apparatus of Claim 36, the asset class representing a commodity, the first asset subclass representing a first grade of the commodity, and the second asset subclass representing a second grade of the commodity.